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Important Dates to Remember

July 31: Preferred deadline for corrections to state aid eligibility - Protect your eligibility for **Access Missouri** and/or **Bright Flight** funds by making sure all necessary corrections to your eligibility are completed

August 1: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadline for the **Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship**

August 17: Registration deadline for September 8 **ACT**

College Students

- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2012-2013 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online FAFSA correction process at www.fafsa.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight students are NOT required to complete the FAFSA but may choose to do so to apply for need-based aid. If the FAFSA indicates you are no longer an undergraduate student, Missouri resident or U.S. citizen, your Bright Flight eligibility can be affected.

- **July 31, 2012** - the preferred deadline for Access Missouri and Bright Flight. The MDHE cannot guarantee that corrections to Access Missouri eligibility made after July 31 will be received in time to affect your final eligibility.
 - **October 1, 2012** - the deadline for Bright Flight students who took the ACT in June 2012 or missed the July 31 preferred deadline. If you do not provide all necessary information to the MDHE by October 1, you will be considered a late applicant and your award will be subject to funding availability, even if you have previously received an approval letter.
- If you receive the **Bright Flight scholarship**, keep in mind that as a renewal student you must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving the award. The most up-to-date **information regarding award amounts for the 2012-2013 academic year is available on the MDHE's website**. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amount, which will be finalized next month.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.

Recent High School Graduates

- Make copies of your financial aid forms, immunization records, and tax returns to aid in resolving issues that may arise during your first year of college. Under new federal financial aid rules, you may also need to provide your financial aid office with an official tax transcript from the IRS. Visit <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc156.html> for guidance regarding how to obtain a tax transcript.
- Plan for transportation; some schools do not allow freshmen to have cars. Whether it is the bus, a bike, or even walking, make sure that you have a plan for getting around campus, as well as around town.

Monthly Reminders

- Save money from your summer job for college expenses.
- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2012-2013 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online FAFSA correction process at www.fafsa.gov.

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- The most up-to-date information about the **Bright Flight award amounts for the 2012-2013 academic year** is available on the MDHE's website. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amounts, which will be finalized in August.
- If you take the ACT or SAT in June, the MDHE should receive your score by the end of July or beginning of August (six to eight weeks after you take the test).
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- If you're an **A+** student, don't forget to file your 2012-2013 FAFSA. Make sure the participating community college or vocational/technical school you will attend has a copy of your high school transcript with the official A+ stamp.

High School Students

- It's never too early to start saving your money. Before you spend your hard-earned summer cash on that pair of \$90 shoes, stop and think about the impact of your purchase. Sometimes taking a day to really consider an item's worth can put things in perspective. For additional insight, check out the latest Facebook video

produced by MDHE interns titled “[How to Save Money This Summer](#).”

- Talk with your parents about setting up a [savings and spending plan](#). Watch how much your money grows over the upcoming school year.

Younger Teens

- Are you heading to high school next year? If so, work with your guidance counselor and parents to start planning the classes you'll take. Check out the [recommended core classes](#) for high school students on the MDHE website to make sure your schedule is working to get you the credits you'll need when you go to enroll in a Missouri college or university at the end of high school.
- As you head to high school, also make sure you know and follow your school's rules and procedures. Protect your [A+ eligibility](#) by avoiding risky behavior.

Parents

- Encourage your child to take [college classes if they are available at your high school](#). Courses are usually offered at a reduced rate to high school students and can help your son or daughter earn a few credits toward a college degree.
- If your child is preparing for his or her senior year of high school, don't overlook all the mail from various colleges. Encourage them to look through the materials to evaluate which schools are best suited for their future plans. In addition, the [MDHE's Institution, Program, and Degree Search](#) allows you to search for Missouri schools based on school type, type of degree, type of program, and location. Information about [tuition and fees](#) can also be found on the [MDHE website](#).
- It's not too late! If you're feeling the financial crunch, remember that financial options, such as a [Federal PLUS Loan](#), are still available. Contact your child's financial aid office for more information.
- Think about personal property insurance for your child's valuable items while he or she is away from home (e.g., computer, gaming system, and jewelry). Many universities or off-campus apartments/houses will not reimburse for items damaged due to fire, water, etc.

Scholarship Opportunities

- Research various scholarship opportunities via the MDHE's [Journey to College](#) Facebook page. A list of scholarships for current and future college students is available to view at www.facebook.com/journeystocollege.

Why College Internships Are Worth the Investment

By Jaron Vail, MDHE program specialist

COLLEGE. The big word that looms over senior year like heavy storm clouds. First, a taste of reality. Higher education, as we know it today, may be dramatically different five years from now in terms of cost and degrees offered, but don't panic just yet. Imagine this scenario for a second: you've been taking classes for couple of months, are well adjusted to the intense study group sessions and campus food, but you're stuck trying to fill the gaps for the evenings or weekends when nothing in the DVD stash or video game vault piques your interest. Why not use your extra time to get an edge in the job market by completing a college internship?

According to research conducted at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, 80 percent of the college degree holders surveyed "landed their first job while they were still in college or within the first six months after graduation." Students that completed internships while in college earned nearly 15 percent more on average than those that did not "undertake an intership." Data across a variety of disciplines not only illustrates the importance of college, but how important it is to take advantage of opportunities outside of the classroom. Taking time to work at a local business or nonprofit a few nights a week instead of spending your free week nights playing Dance Dance Revolution or daring your roommates to drink a jar of pickle juice and hot sauce (Oh, wait...that's what I did in college.) builds relative on-the-job experience, which definitely helps in the long run.

Due to the career benefits that college internships offer, you don't have to give up pursuing a major you're passionate about for fear that it will not reap the financial benefits to live independently. Make no mistake about it, a college internship can definitely be the first step in making your dreams a reality.

MDHE Student Portal Now Available!

The MDHE has launched a new student portal that allows students to access information to help plan and pay for college. The portal offers two levels of access with a variety of information available on each.

- Students with basic access (Level 1) can:
 - Search for the institution, program, and or degree that is right for them;
 - Research information about state student financial aid programs that are available from the MDHE;
 - Access applications for the MDHE's state student financial aid programs that require a paper application; and
 - Link to a variety of state and federal resources.
- Students with upgraded access (Level 2) can access their personal information relating to the A+, Access Missouri, Bright Flight and Marguerite Ross Barnett programs. This includes the ability to:
 - View eligibility information;
 - Access their payment history;
 - Add a school choice (available January to August);
 - View application information;
 - View their letters and notices; and
 - Opt to receive emails with general and personalized information.

Portal Menu

- [Home](#)
- [My Account](#)
- [Program Information](#)
- [Applications](#)
- [Participating Schools](#)
- [Missouri Connections](#)
- [NSLDS](#)
- [MOHELA](#)
- [Additional Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Log Out](#)

Access

- Visit <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/famous/portal/splogin.faces> to sign in.
- A **Microsoft Live ID is required** to access the portal at either level. If you do not have one, you can obtain one when you sign in.
- You will be able to upgrade your access if the MDHE has a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ACT and/or SAT record on file for you. (We receive these records for Missouri residents automatically from the U.S. Department of Education, ACT and the College Board through August each year.)
- Your Social Security number is required to upgrade your access so we can match you to your personal information. If you believe you have a FAFSA, ACT or SAT record on file with the MDHE but the portal is unable to confirm you, use the Contact Us feature or call us at (800) 473-6757, option 4 for assistance.
- **You must upgrade your access if you wish to add a school choice to your record.**